(e) the time by which the project is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) Yes, Sir. Delhi MRTS project was approved by the Union Cabinet on 17th September, 1996.

(b) The Modified First Phase of the project will comprise of a network of 11 Kms. of underground (metro corridor from Vishwa Vidyalaya to Central Secretariat via ISBT, Old/New Delhi Railway Stations, Connaught Place) alongwith 44.3 Kms. of elevated/surface rail corridors (Subzi Mandi to Holambi Kalan via Azadpur, Transport Nagar, Badli, Siraspur and Iradat Nagar and from Shahadra to Nangloi via ISBT, Rampura and Mangolpuri). The total estimated cost of the project at April '96 prices is Rs.4860 crores. About 60% of cost of the project will be met through loans from agencies like Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF) and about 30% of cost of the project will be funded by the Government of India and Government of NCT of Delhi, by way of equity, in equal proportions. The balance amount will be raised through the property development and the dedicated taxes/cesses. The project will be implemented by the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation - a Company already set up for the purpose.

(c) and (d). OECF (Japan) has intimated their willingness to provide a Yen loan equivalent to about 60% of the total eligible cost of the project at an interest rate of 2.3% per annum. The loan agreement is likely to be signed on a date to be intimated by OECF.

(e) The project execution is likely to commence during 1997-98 subject to availability of funds.

Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking

*90. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Badarpur Thermal Power Station has discontinued the supply of power due to non-payment of their outstanding dues by Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking;

(b) if so, the total amount outstanding against DESU as on date;

(c) whether power generation and its supply are likely to affect the capital in near future due to it; and

(d) if so, the steps taken or being taken by the Government to meet the requirement of electricity in Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) No, Sir. Badarpur Thermal Power Station (BTPS) is continuing to supply the entire power generated by it to Delhi Electricity Supply Undertaking (DESU).

(b) to (d). A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(b) to (d). The total dues payable by DESU to BTPS as on 31.10.1996 was Rs.5057.36 crores which includes Rs.2382.50 crores towards supply of power and Rs.2674.86 crores as surcharge. With effect from 1st October, 1996, Delhi Administration has agreed to pay Rs.36 crores every month to BTPS. Delhi Administration has also agreed to pay the current dues in full with effect from 1st January, 1997 to enable BTPS to fall in line with the "pre-payment scheme" for supply and transportation of coal to thermal power stations.

The power supply position in Delhi is periodically reviewed and appropriate remedial measures are taken to ensure supply of power. These include : (i) improvement in supply of Coal/Fuel to BTPS and DESU owned power stations; (ii) coordinating with Railways for timely transportation of coal; and (iii) augmenting supply of power from Central Generating Stations in the Northern Region.

Oil Fields

*91. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether certain oil fields have been handed over to the private consortia at the behest of the World Bank;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons therefor; and

(d) the loss incurred by the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation on account of handing over some oil fields to private consortia?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (d). Discovered oil fields have been offered for development by joint ventures in pursuance of a policy decision of the Government. These fields have been awarded through international competitive bidding. In the bids, signature and production bonuses are biddable items and proceeds on these accounts go to ONGC. In addition, wherever the economics of the project so permits, there has been separate compensation for past costs incurred to ONGC.

The reasons for offering these fields for private participation include :

(i) Marginal economics of some of the fields.

(ii) Low reserves of the small fields offered.

(iii) To augment total investment in exploration and development.